

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00

FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

OMB-01 PM-04 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 /087 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ORF/FSE:GRRASE:JM

APPROVED BY EB/ORF/FSE:LRRAICHT

EUR/SOV:JATREICHEL

E - RMPOATS

S/S - MR. MOFFAT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 007792

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: NORTH STAR LNG PROJECT

1. UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON HELD A MEETING WITH JACK RAY OF TENNESSEE GAS TRANSMISSION COMPANY AND NEVIL PROES OF TEXAS EASTERN LNG CORP. ON JANUARY 9 CONCERNING THEIR UPCOMING TRIP TO MOSCOW FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS ON THE NORTH STAR LNG PROJECT.

2. RAY AND PROES INFORMED MR. ROBINSON THAT THEY WERE GOING TO MOSCOW ON JANUARY 14 FOR TALKS WITH HIGH SOVIET OFFICIALS ON THE 19TH. THE TOPIC OF THESE TALKS IS THE NEW FINANCIAL PACKAGE WHICH
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HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR THE PROJECT. THE NEW PACKAGE CALLS

FOR EUROPEAN, RATHER THAN U.S., FINANCING AND SUPPLY OF THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT AND SERVICE IMPORTS FOR THE PROJECT.

3. RAY AND PROES EXPRESSED TWO MAJOR CONCERNS IN THEIR MEETING WITH ROBINSON. FIRST THEY WANTED TO BE ASSURED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS NOT GOING TO MAKE A NEGATIVE RULING IN ITS CURRENT LNG IMPORTS POLICY REVIEW WHILE THEY WERE IN MOSCOW. ROBINSON ASSURED THEM THAT NOTHING WAS LIKELY TO BREAK ON LNG POLICY DURING THIS TIME FRAME

AND STRESSED THE NEED FOR U.S. POLICY TO BALANCE SECURITY AND ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS IN FUTURE LNG IMPORT DECISIONS. FURTHER, AND THE REASON FOR THEIR MOSCOW TRIP, THEY WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT THE SOVIETS DO NOT ELIMINATE THE NORTH STAR PROJECT FROM THEIR NEXT FIVE YEAR PLAN. RAY AND PROES PLAN TO DISCUSS THIS WITH KOSYGIN OR BAIBAKOV WHILE IN MOSCOW. KISSINGER

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